

3. (Currently Amended) The laboratory assay [Laboratory test] of [a body fluid or tissue sample, as claimed in] claim 1, [characterized in that the quantitatively analytic detection of] wherein cis-hydroxyproline and its derivatives is [carried out] detected by [means of] HPLC, column chromatography, gas chromatography, mass spectroscopy, ion exchange chromatography, immunoassay, radio immunoassay, enzyme immunoassay, or fluorescence immunoassay [or other corresponding antibody methods].

4. (Currently Amended) A process [Process] for determining cis-hydroxyproline and its derivatives [for the purpose of a laboratory test of] in a body fluid or tissue sample[, as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that] according to the assay of claim 1 which comprises eliminating disturbing substances in the body fluid or tissue sample to be analyzed [is prepared to eliminate disturbing substances; and that the cis-hydroxyproline and its derivative content is determined] and quantitatively determining cis-hydroxyproline and its derivative content in [this] the sample.

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5. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 4, [characterized in that the determination of cis-hydroxyproline and its derivatives is performed by means of] which comprises using HPLC, gas chromatography, column chromatography, mass spectroscopy, ion exchange chromatography, RIA, ELISA or fluorescence immunoassay to quantitatively determine the cis-hydroxyproline and its derivative content in the sample.

6. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the cis-hydroxyproline and its derivative content is determined by [means of comparison] comparing with an external [and / or] standard, an internal standard, or both.

7. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 4, wherein the cis-4-hydroxyproline content in the body fluid and tissue sample is determined by [means of] HPLC, comprising the following steps:

- a) [An] adding an internal standard [is added] to the [body fluid and / or the tissue] sample[.] to obtain a mixture;
- b) [The] hydrolyzing the mixture[, obtained according to] of step a)[, is hydrolyzed.] to obtain a product;
- c) [At] adding at least one alkali hydroxide and at least one alkali carbonate [are added] to the product[, obtained according to] of step b)[.];
- d) [A] adding a reagent that eliminates [eliminating] the disturbing substance and adding a derivatization reagent [are added] to the product[, obtained from] of step c); and
- e) determining the cis-4-hydroxyproline and its derivative content [is determined] in the product [obtained in] of step d) by quantitative analysis.

8. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein before step b) an acid is added.

9. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 8, [characterized in that] wherein hydrolysis takes place in the presence of hydrochloric acid at a temperature ranging from 80 degrees C to 120 degrees C.

10. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein the alkali metal compounds added in step c) are hydroxides or carbonates of sodium or potassium.

11. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein the pH value in step c) is adjusted to a pH ranging from 8.5 to 9 with the addition of HCl.

12. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein in step d) ortho-phthaldialdehyde (OPA) and as the derivatization reagent an azo dye are added.

13. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein prior to the quantitative analysis of cis-4-hydroxyproline and its derivatives in step e) the temperature is lowered.

14. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the body fluid sample is a urine sample or a blood sample.

15. (Currently Amended) The process [Process, as claimed in] of claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein cis-3-hydroxyproline is used as the internal standard (IS).

16. (Currently Amended) An analysis [Analysis] kit to carry out the process[, as claimed in] of claim 7, comprising HCl (10

M), NaOH (16 M), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (4 M), ortho-phthaldialdehyde, aqueous phosphate buffer and dabsyl chloride.

17. (Currently Amended) The analysis kit of [Analysis kit, as claimed in] claim 16, [characterized in that] wherein the concentration of ortho-phthalaldehyde ranges from 45 to 55 g/l.

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18. (Currently Amended) The analysis kit of [Analysis kit, as claimed in] claim 16, [characterized in that] wherein the concentration of dabsyl chloride ranges from 220 to 270 mg/l.

19. (Currently Amended) The analysis kit of [Analysis kit, as claimed in] claim 16, [characterized in that] wherein it includes at least one RP 8 separating column.

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